United Nations S/2003/1181

Security Council

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Letter dated 12 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the latest developments in Côte d'Ivoire issued on 9 December 2003 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

03-66278 (E) 181203

Annex to the letter dated 12 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the latest developments in Côte d'Ivoire issued on 9 December 2003 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the meeting held in Yamoussoukro on Thursday, 4 December 2003, between the national armed forces and those of the New Forces under the chairmanship of the Head of State and Supreme Commander, with a view to resuming the vital and urgent process of assembling and disarming the opposing military forces.

It applauds the statements made by President Gbagbo, clearly expressing his resolve to apply the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement (S/2003/99, annex I) in full.

It now trusts that the commitments made at that meeting will be scrupulously honoured.

The European Union fully values and encourages these positive developments, which hold out a sign of hope for the swift and full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. It strongly reiterates its call to the New Forces' ministers to resume their participation in the peace process and in government as soon as possible. In view of the decisions just taken in Yamoussoukro, those ministers' continued absence would now be incomprehensible.

The European Union also confirms its willingness to support the reunification and reconstruction of Côte d'Ivoire with all the means at its disposal.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with the present statement.

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Letter dated 13 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the final communiqué of the meeting held on Thursday, 4 December 2003, between the Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) and the armed forces of the Forces nouvelles under the chairmanship of the Head of State, Mr. Laurent Gbagbo (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text to be circulated as a document of the Security Council under the agenda item entitled "Situation in Côte d'Ivoire".

(*Signed*) Philippe **Djangone-Bi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-66452 (E) 191203 191203

Annex to the letter dated 13 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Final communiqué

On Thursday, 4 December 2003, the Defence and Security Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the armed forces of the Forces nouvelles held a meeting at the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace in Yamoussoukro under the auspices of His Excellency, Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and with the Prime Minister of the Government of National Reconciliation and the impartial forces of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (ECOMICI) and the French Forces (Unicorn) in attendance.

In light of the gravity of the events now taking place and the possibly catastrophic consequences which they may have for the peace process currently under way, the parties have agreed on the need to do everything in their power to create as soon as possible a climate conducive to the resumption of talks and activities aimed at restoring normalcy and lasting peace to Côte d'Ivoire.

After a frank and fruitful exchange of views centred on the recommendations of the meetings held earlier at Bouaké at the Baptist Mission and at the quadripartite command post, on 27 November and 3 December 2003, respectively, agreement was reached on the following:

1. The Defence and Security Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the armed forces of the Forces nouvelles reaffirm their commitment to the Joint Declaration of 4 July 2003 putting an end to the war;

2. By noon on 5 December 2003: completion of withdrawal of units from Allangouassou and Bania as well as of all other units stationed in the zone of confidence;

3. On 7 December 2003: release of all detained soldiers;

4. On 10 December 2003: quadripartite meeting at Bouaké to establish a timetable effective from 15 December 2003 for the:

- removal of unauthorized checkpoints and barriers;
- administration of the zone of confidence;
- cantonment of troops;
- collection of light arms and heavy weapons.

5. On 12 December 2003: meeting of the Technical Operations Unit (CTO) of the National Committee for the Reunification of Côte d'Ivoire in Abidjan to finalize the timetable of activities.

Done at Yamoussoukro, on 4 December 2003.

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Note by the President of the Security Council

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, it has been agreed that the ad hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, established on 1 March 2002 (see S/2002/207) for a period of one year, will continue its work until 31 December 2004.

03-66505 (E) 181203